

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 THESSA 00201 030845 Z

14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /041 W
----- 090815

R 030630 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1394

INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0201

E. O.11652: N/ A

TAGS: SOCI, GR, CY

SUBJECT: REACTION TO IERONYMOS RESIGNATION

1. ALL THESSALONIKI WEEKEND PAPERS GAVE MAJOR COVERAGE TO MARCH 30 RESIGNATION, BUT DIFFERED REGARDING LIKELY SUCCESSORS. ALL, HOWEVER, LISTED VARIOUS METROPOLITANS OF NORTHERN GREECE AS MOST LIKELY CANDIDATES. OPPOSITION "MAKEDONIA" AND "THESSALONIKI" CITED METROPOLITAN VARNAVAS OF KITROS (KATERINI) AS FRONTRUNNER ON BASIS OF DOCTORATE DEGREE, FRIENDSHIP WITH PRIME MINISTER, SUPPORT FROM OTHER METROPOLITANS, AND PUBLISHED WORKS. THESSALONIKI METROPOLITAN LEONIDAS, ON OTHER HAND, CARRIED AS FIFTH CHOICE AFTER VARNAVAS AND METROPOLITANS OF HYDRA, EDESSA, AND PARAMITHIA.

2. CONSERVATIVE "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" CLEARLY FAVORS LEONIDAS, HOWEVER, AND FRONTPAGED HIS CREDENTIALS AND PHOTOGRAPHS. IN INTERVIEW WITH "VORRAS" ON MARCH 31, LEONIDAS CITES HIS "INVOLVEMENT WITH PROBLEMS OF THESSALONIKI", BUT REFRAINS FROM COMMENT ON RESIGNATION AND DOES NOT EXCLUDE HIS OWN CANDIDACY. IN ADDITION TO REASONS CITED IN THE ATHENS PRESS FOR IERONYMOS RESIGNATION, PAPER ALSO LISTS RECENT DISAGREEMENT OF ARCHBISHOP WITH LEONIDAS ON ISSUE OF SUPPORT FOR MAKARIOS. ACCORDING TO FRONTPAGE COLUMN OF MARCH 31, LEONIDAS HAS "STRONGLY OPPOSED" HOLY SYNOD BACKING OF MAKARIOS AGAINST THREE CYPRIOT METROPOLITANS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 THESSA 00201 030845 Z

3. IN ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT HERE, CHIEF EDITOR ELIAS KYROU OF "VORRAS" LINKS RESIGNATION TO DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS WITH ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE AND CITES THIS AS FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE FOR NEW ARCHBISHOP. SUMMARY COMMENT IN "VORRAS" WEEKLY OPINION COLUMN LISTS FIVE OPTIONS IN PRESENT SITUATION:

1) WITHDRAWAL OF IERONYMOS RESIGNATION, 2) ELECTION OF INTERIM METROPOLITAN FOR 1-2 YEAR TERM WHICH WOULD FAVOR LEONIDAS, 3) ELECTION OF YOUNGER METROPOLITAN SUCH AS NICODEMOS OF ATTICA FOR PURPOSE OF "RADICAL, LONG- TERM REFORMS", 4) ELECTION OF VARNAVAS OF KITROS BECAUSE OF "CERTAIN" SUPPORT FROM OTHER METROPOLITANS, AND 5) "DARING" ELECTION OF MAKARIOS AS ARCHBISHOP OF GREECE WHICH WOULD ALTER "GREEK HISTORY FOR NEXT 10 YEARS".

BRENNAN

UNCLASSIFIED

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973THESSA00201
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: THESSALONIKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730432/aaaahmwz.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Dec-2001 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <04-Jan-2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971120
Subject: REACTION TO IERONYMOS RESIGNATION
TAGS: SOCI, CY, GR
To: ATHENS
NEA
NICOSIA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005